

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

MM Docket No. 92-47

In the Matter of

Amendment of Section 73.606(b), RM-7929
Table of Allotments,
FM Broadcast Stations.
(Bellingham and Anacortes, Washington)

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE MAKING

Adopted: March 5, 1992;

Released: March 13, 1992

Comment Date: May 4, 1992

Reply Comment Date: May 19, 1992

By the Acting Chief, Allocations Branch:

1. The Commission has before it the petition for rule making filed by Prism Broadcasting Company, Inc. ("petitioner"), permittee of Station KBCB(TV), requesting the reallocation of vacant UHF television Channel 24 in lieu of Channel 64 at Bellingham, Washington, the modification of Station KBCB(TV)'s construction permit accordingly, and the substitution of vacant Channel 64 in lieu of Channel 24 at Anacortes, Washington, to accommodate the substitution at Bellingham. Petitioner does not state its intention to apply for the Bellingham channel, if allotted, and must do so in comments responsive to this *Notice*.

2. In support of its proposal, petitioner notes that because of the proximity of Station KBCB(TV) to vacant Channel 63, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canadian officials have indicated opposition to the operation of Station KBCB(TV) at more than 1,000 kilowatts ERP in the direction of Canada. Petitioner claims that operation of Station KBCB(TV) on Channel 24 in lieu of Channel 64 may permit operation of both Station KBCB(TV) and Channel 63, Vancouver, at increased power without special limits negotiated by international treaties.

3. A staff engineering analysis of the proposal has determined that UHF television Channel 24 can be allotted to Bellingham and Channel 64 to Anacortes in compliance with the Commission's minimum distance separation requirements.¹ The substitution of Channel 64 at Anacortes would move that channel 23.5 kilometers (14.6 miles) closer to Seattle, Washington, and 22.0 kilometers (13.7 miles) closer to Tacoma, Washington. Although the Commission has imposed a freeze on television allotments in

certain metropolitan areas, which includes the Seattle-Tacoma area, the Anacortes substitution is not affected by the freeze, as no additional channel is proposed.²

4. We believe the public interest would be served by proposing the reallocation of Channel 24 from Anacortes to Bellingham and the reallocation of Channel 64 from Bellingham to Anacortes, as it may permit Station KBCB(TV) to operate at increased power. As requested, we also propose to modify petitioner's construction permit for Station KBCB(TV) to specify operation on Channel 24 at Bellingham. We will not accept competing expressions of interest in the use of television Channel 24 at Bellingham. In addition, since Anacortes and Bellingham are located within 400 kilometers (250 miles) of the U.S.-Canadian border, concurrence by the Canadian government has been requested.

5. Accordingly, we seek comments on the proposed amendment of the TV Table of Allotments, Section 73.606(b) of the Commission's Rules, for the communities listed below, to read as follows:

City	Channel No.	
	Present	Proposed
Anacortes,		
Washington	24	64
Bellingham,		
Washington	12+, *34, 64	12+, *34, 24

6. The Commission's authority to institute rule making proceedings, showings required, cut-off procedures, and filing requirements are contained in the attached Appendix and are incorporated by reference herein. In particular, we note that a showing of continuing interest is required by paragraph 2 of the Appendix before a channel will be allotted.

7. Interested parties may file comments on or before **May 4, 1992**, and reply comments on or before **May 19, 1992**, and are advised to read the Appendix for the proper procedures. Comments should be filed with the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, Washington, D.C. 20554. Additionally, a copy of such comments should be served on the petitioner, or its counsel or consultant, as follows:

Garry Spire, Esq.
Suite 104
23642 Calabasas Road
Calabasas, California 91302
(Counsel for Petitioner)

8. The Commission has determined that the relevant provisions of the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 do not apply to rule making proceedings to amend the TV Table of Allotments, Section 73.606(b) of the Commission's Rules. *See Certification That Sections 603 and 604 of*

¹ The coordinates for Channel 24 at Bellingham are North Latitude 48-40-48 and West Longitude 122-50-23. The coordinates for Channel 64 at Anacortes are North Latitude 48-30-06 and West Longitude 122-36-36.

² *See Order, Advanced Television Systems and Their Impact on the Existing Television Broadcast Service*, 52 FR 28346, July 29, 1987.

the Regulatory Flexibility Act Do Not Apply to Rule Making to Amend Sections 73.202(b), 73.504 and 73.606(b) of the Commission's Rules, 46 FR 11549, February 9, 1981.

9. For further information concerning this proceeding, contact Sharon P. McDonald, Mass Media Bureau, (202) 634-6530. For purposes of this restricted notice and comment rule making proceeding, members of the public are advised that no *ex parte* presentations are permitted from the time the Commission adopts a Notice of Proposed Rule Making until the proceeding has been decided and such decision is no longer subject to reconsideration by the Commission or review by any court. An *ex parte* presentation is not prohibited if specifically requested by the Commission or staff for the clarification or adduction of evidence or resolution of issues in the proceeding. However, any new written information elicited from such a request or a summary of any new oral information shall be served by the person making the presentation upon the other parties to the proceeding unless the Commission specifically waives this service requirement. Any comment which has not been served on the petitioner constitutes an *ex parte* presentation and shall not be considered in the proceeding. Any reply comment which has not been served on the person(s) who filed the comment, to which the reply is directed, constitutes an *ex parte* presentation and shall not be considered in the proceeding.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Michael C. Ruger
Acting Chief, Allocations Branch
Policy and Rules Division
Mass Media Bureau

APPENDIX

1. Pursuant to authority found in Sections 4(i), 5(c)(1), 303(g) and (r) and 307(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, and Sections 0.61 0.204(b) and 0.283 of the Commission's Rules, IT IS PROPOSED TO AMEND the TV Table of Allotments, Section 73.606(b) of the Commission's Rules and Regulations, as set forth in the *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* to which this Appendix is attached.

2. *Showings Required.* Comments are invited on the proposal(s) discussed in the *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* to which this Appendix is attached. Proponent(s) will be expected to answer whatever questions are presented in initial comments. The proponent of a proposed allotment is also expected to file comments even if it only resubmits or incorporates by reference its former pleadings. It should also restate its present intention to apply for the channel if it is allotted and, if authorized, to build a station promptly. Failure to file may lead to denial of the request.

3. *Cut - off Procedures.* The following procedures will govern the consideration of filings in this proceeding.

(a) Counterproposals advanced in this proceeding itself will be considered if advanced in initial comments, so that parties may comment on them in

reply comments. They will not be considered if advanced in reply comments. (See Section 1.420(d) of the Commission's Rules.)

(b) With respect to petitions for rule making which conflict with the proposal(s) in this *Notice*, they will be considered as comments in the proceeding, and Public Notice to this effect will be given as long as they are filed before the date for filing initial comments herein. If they are filed later than that, they will not be considered in connection with the decision in this docket.

(c) The filing of a counterproposal may lead the Commission to allot a different channel than was requested for any of the communities involved.

4. *Comments and Reply Comments; Service.* Pursuant to applicable procedures set out in Sections 1.415 and 1.420 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations, interested parties may file comments and reply comments on or before the dates set forth in the *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* to which this Appendix is attached. All submissions by parties to this proceeding or by persons acting on behalf of such parties must be made in written comments, reply comments, or other appropriate pleadings. Comments shall be served on the petitioner by the person filing the comments. Reply comments shall be served on the person(s) who filed comments to which the reply is directed. Such comments and reply comments shall be accompanied by a certificate of service. (See Section 1.420(a), (b) and (c) of the Commission's Rules.)

5. *Number of Copies.* In accordance with the provisions of Section 1.420 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations, an original and four copies of all comments, reply comments, pleadings, briefs, or other documents shall be furnished the Commission.

6. *Public Inspection of Filings.* All filings made in this proceeding will be available for examination by interested parties during regular business hours in the Commission's Public Reference Room at its headquarters, 1919 M Street N.W., Washington, D.C.